

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel supporting apparatus comprising:

an elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ attached to a load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ provided in a wheel ~~(10, 20)~~ of a wheel unit ~~(100)~~ and placed to allow vibrations of said wheel unit ~~(100)~~ and vibrations of said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ to dampen each other;

a suspension arm ~~(210, 220)~~ having one end connected to said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ and the other end fixed to a vehicle body pivotably in a top-bottom direction of said vehicle body; and

a rotatably supporting member ~~(180)~~ connected to said suspension arm ~~(210, 220)~~ and said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ to rotatably support said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ is an in-wheel motor ~~(IWM)~~ including:

a motor ~~(70)~~ generating motive power;

a motor output shaft ~~(110)~~ connected to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~ via a constant velocity joint ~~(30)~~ to allow the motive power generated by said motor ~~(70)~~ to be transmitted to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~; and

a case ~~(60)~~ housing said motor, and

said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ is attached to said case ~~(60)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said motor output shaft ~~(110)~~ is comprised of:

a first output shaft ~~(110A)~~ connected to said motor; and

a second output shaft ~~(110B)~~ having one end fitted into said first output shaft ~~(110A)~~ and the other end connected to said constant velocity joint ~~(30)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ is a weight ~~(WG)~~ provided to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~ without connected to said wheel ~~(10, 20)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein

said suspension arm ~~(210, 220)~~ is comprised of an upper arm ~~(210)~~ and a lower arm ~~(220)~~, and

said elastic member ~~(140, 150)~~ is connected to at least one of said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said elastic member is comprised of a pair of elastic members ~~(140, 150)~~,

one of said pair of elastic members ~~(140)~~ is connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~, and

the other of said pair of elastic members ~~(150)~~ is connected to said lower arm ~~(220)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

said pair of elastic members ~~(140, 150)~~ is connected to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ are connected to said pair of elastic members ~~(140, 150)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

8. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

said pair of elastic members is comprised of:

a pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ and attached to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body; and

a pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ and attached to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are placed in a front-rear direction of said vehicle body.

9. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are each a rubber mount.

10. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said pair of elastic members further includes a pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ and attached to said load member ~~(FWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ is made of a material different from a material of which said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are made and is placed between said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body.

11. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are each comprised of a rubber mount, and

said pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ is each comprised of a spring.

12. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

said pair of front elastic members ~~(340, 360)~~ and said pair of rear elastic members ~~(350, 370)~~ are each comprised of a spring, and

said pair of middle elastic members ~~(380, 390)~~ is each comprised of a rubber mount.

13. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 5,
wherein

said elastic member is comprised of an upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and a lower elastic member-~~(360, 370)~~,

said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ is connected to said upper arm-~~(210)~~, and

said lower elastic member-~~(360, 370)~~ is connected to said lower arm-~~(220)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 13,
wherein

said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and said lower elastic member-~~(360, 370)~~ are attached to said load member-~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body,
and

said upper arm-~~(210)~~ and said lower arm-~~(220)~~ are connected respectively to said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and said lower elastic member ~~(360, 370)~~ in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

15. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 14,
wherein

said upper elastic member-~~(340, 350)~~ and said lower elastic member ~~(360, 370)~~ are each comprised of at least one elastic body.

16. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 15,
wherein

said at least one elastic body-~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~ is each a rubber mount.

17. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

said upper elastic member ~~(340, 350, 380)~~ and said lower elastic member ~~(360, 370, 390)~~ are each comprised of:

at least one first elastic body ~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~; and

a second elastic body ~~(380, 390)~~ different from said first elastic body.

18. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

said at least one first elastic body ~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~ is each a rubber mount, and said second elastic body ~~(380, 390)~~ is a spring.

19. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

said at least one first elastic body ~~(340, 350, 360, 370)~~ is each a spring, and said second elastic body ~~(380, 390)~~ is a rubber mount.

20. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said elastic member is comprised of a pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~,

said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~ is connected to said upper arm ~~(210)~~ via a pair of arm members ~~(260, 270)~~, and

said lower arm ~~(220)~~ is provided to said load member ~~(1WM)~~ and said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~ without connected to said load member ~~(1WM)~~ and said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~, said lower arm having one end connected to said rotatably

supporting member ~~(180)~~ and the other end fixed to said vehicle body pivotably in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

21. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein

said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~ is attached to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body,

said pair of arm members ~~(260, 270)~~ is connected to said pair of elastic members ~~(140A, 150A)~~ in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body,

said upper arm ~~(210)~~ has one end connected to said rotatably supporting member ~~(180)~~ and said pair of arm members ~~(260, 270)~~ and the other end fixed to said vehicle body pivotably in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body, and

said upper arm ~~(210)~~ and said lower arm ~~(220)~~ are placed in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

22. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein

said elastic members of said pair of elastic members ~~(280, 290, 300, 310)~~ are placed on respective sides opposite to each other of said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in a front-rear direction of said vehicle body and are able to expand and contract in the top-bottom direction of said vehicle body.

23. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising an extension member ~~(320)~~ fixed to said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ and

extending from said load member ~~(IWM, WG)~~ in the front-rear direction of said vehicle body,
wherein

said pair of elastic members ~~(280, 290, 300, 310)~~ has one end connected to said
extension member ~~(320)~~ and the other end connected to said pair of arm members (260, 270).

24. (Currently Amended) The wheel supporting apparatus according to claim 22 ~~or~~
~~23~~, wherein

said pair of elastic members ~~(280, 290, 300, 310)~~ includes a pair of suspensions ~~(280,~~
~~290)~~.